Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE - ROBERT J. CARROLL/LM APPROVED BY EUR/SE - MR. LEDSKY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EINV, MT, US

SUBJECT: COMBUSTION ENGINEERING'S POSSIBLE INTEREST IN MALTA

REF VALLETTA 0086

- 1. ON JANUARY 24, DEPARTMENT OFFICER SPOKE WITH JAMES CALVERT WHO INDICATED THAT COMBUSTION ENGINEERING HAS TWO OTHER LOCATIONS IN MEDITERRANEAN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND THAT EVALUATION OF THESE SITES WILL TAKE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A DECISION OR GIVING THE GOM ANY FURTHER WORD IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. THE TEAM WHICH VISITED MALTA RETURNED FROM EUROPE ONLY THIS WEEK TO GIVE THEIR ASSESSMENTS OF VARIOUS PROSPECTIVE LOCATIONS. THEY WILL LOOK NO FURTHER. THE TEAM MEMBERS STRESSED THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN TREATED MORE KINDLY OR EFFICIENTLY THAN THEY WERE DURING THEIR VISIT TO MALTA.
- 2. FYI: ALTHOUGH CALVERT DID NOT WANT TO CLOSE THE DOOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPLETELY ON MALTA AS A SITE FOR THE PLANNED FACILITY, HE

ALLOWED ONLY THE SLIMMEST HOPE THAT MALTA WOULD BE SELECTED. THE COMPANY IS ALL BUT COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO COUNTRIES (WHICH CALVERT DECLINED TO NAME) WOULD BE A BETTER CHOICE. THE PRINCIPAL DRAWBACKS FOR MALTA

AS COMPARED WITH THE OTHER TWO LOCATIONS ARE TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE ISLAND AND THE RELATIVELY LARGE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FACILITIES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN MALTA. ON THE PLUS SIDE, THE COMPANY CONSIDERED THE LABOR MARKET OUTSTANDING AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR LABOR OUTLINED BY THE GOM PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY. NEVERTHELESS, CALVERT ESTIMATED THE POSSIBILITY OF SELECTING MALTA AS ONE OUT OF TEN AT BEST. INGERSOLL

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